



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

April 30, 2012

Stuart J. Appelbaum  
Chief, Planning Division  
Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

SUBJECT: Revised Final Environmental Impact Statement for Broward County Water Preserve Areas (BCWPA), Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Central and Southern Florida Project, Broward County, Florida

Dear Mr. Appelbaum,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Revised Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in accordance with its responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the project is to reduce seepage loss from Water Conservation Areas (WCA) 3 to C-9 and C-11 basins and to improve hydropatterns within the conservation areas by allowing higher water levels in the borrow canals and longer inundation within the marsh areas that are located east of the WCAs and west of US Highway 27. The Revised FEIS is a revision from an April 2007 FEIS/Project Implementation Report (PIR). However, the April 2007 FEIS/PIR did not receive a signed Chief of Engineers' Report, nor a Record of Decision, due to Corps policy changes. The Corps has revised the FEIS to reflect these changes. These changes are not substantial changes to the FEIS. Changes to the Revised FEIS are listed below:


- Revision of real estate prices
- Revision of construction costs
- Changes in levee steps for wave break to prevent wildlife entrapment. These changes were fully supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).
- Reflects the results from agricultural chemical testing and commits the non-Federal Sponsor, South Florida Water Management District (in coordination with USFWS) to continue further chemical testing and studies.
- Reflects updates in environmental benefits modeling
- Updated the cost benefit/cost effectiveness/incremental costs analysis
- Completed a Sea Level Rise analysis.

The selected alternative did not change and includes two above-ground impoundments and associated pumps and water control structures: the C-11 Impoundment with an effective interior storage of 1,068 acres and two wetland marsh mitigation areas north of the C-11 Impoundment with 488 acres of wetland marsh; the C-9 Impoundment with an effective interior storage of 1,641 acres and canal conveyance improvements to connect the two impoundments; and an approximately 4,353 acre seepage management area east of the WCA 3.

Overall, EPA finds the Revised FEIS to be an improved NEPA document. EPA continues to support this BCWPA component of the CERP.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed action. Please contact Jamie Higgins at (404) 562-9681 if you want to discuss our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Policy and Management